

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel pending Claim 16, amend Claims 13 and 22 and add new Claim 23-34. A clean copy of the claims currently pending in the present application is provided below, the status of each claim is noted. Please note that attached Exhibit B provides a marked-up copy showing new claims and changes to amended claim 13 and 22.

- P/B*
1. An equipment information system comprising:
- an equipment database;
  - a database manager operable to access and interrogate the equipment database;
  - a table maintenance module operable to perform system maintenance on the equipment database through an interface;
  - an inquiry module operable to query the equipment database through an interface;
  - an inventory module operable to store and change data in the equipment database through an interface, and to allocate an order;
  - a transportation module operable to record the transport of equipment from central inventory location to a service center using the equipment database and through an interface; and
  - an installations/removals module operable to record the installation and removal of equipment using the equipment database through an interface.
2. The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:
- a stored procedure operable to access the data in the equipment database.
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3. The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a stored procedure operable to change the data in the equipment database.

4. The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the stored procedure is executed periodically.

5. The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the stored procedure is executed on-demand through a graphical user interface.

6. The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the execution of the stored procedure is initiated through an external interface.

7. The equipment information system of Claim 2, wherein the execution of the stored procedure is initiated through a second stored procedure.

8. The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

an external interface operable to exchange information with the equipment database.

9. The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a stored procedure operable to automatically order equipment and to store the order in the equipment database.

10. The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the equipment database includes data organized into tables.

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11. The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the database manager and the equipment database are provided at a server and the modules are provided as an executable at a client.

12. The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

an allocation stored procedure operable to automatically allocate equipment through a stock number based on the receipt of an order.

13. (Amended) A method for managing equipment information comprising:

storing attributes of a piece of equipment in an equipment information database that indicates the type of the equipment when the equipment is received at a central inventory location;

adding an indication in the equipment information database that the equipment is available inventory;

receiving an order for equipment needed at a service center that is of the same type as the equipment;

allocating inventory to the order based on available inventory in the equipment information database;

shipping the equipment for the order to the service center;

storing shipment attributes in the equipment information database related to shipment of the piece of equipment from the central inventory location to the service center;

installing the equipment;

updating the equipment information database to indicate that the equipment has been installed;

removing the equipment;

updating the equipment information database that the equipment has been removed; and

shipping the equipment to the central inventory location.

14. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the equipment is a transformer.

15. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the attributes of the equipment includes serial number and manufacturer.

17. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the storing attributes of a piece of equipment includes using a bar code scanner.

18. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the order was received from an external system.

19. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, further comprising:  
deallocating the order after allocating the order.

20. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the order was received from an automatically generated order.

21. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, further comprising:  
filling the order after allocating the order.

22. (Amended) A method for allocating an order in an equipment information system comprising:

receiving an order to supply equipment from an equipment inventory at a central inventory location to a service center;

determining if the order is eligible for allocation;

determining if equipment is available in the equipment inventory to allocate the order;

allocating the order when the equipment is available and when the equipment is unavailable further generating a purchase order information to purchase the equipment from an equipment vendor and electronically communicating the purchase order information to an accounting system, and in response to receiving the equipment further electronically communicating with the accounting system indicating receipt of the ordered equipment and authorizing payment to the equipment vendor; and filling the order.

23. (New) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising a compliance module to record a compliance information related to the equipment.

24. (New) The equipment information system of Claim of 23, wherein the compliance information is further defined as a rate base information related to a location of the equipment and a date the equipment went into service.

25. (New) The equipment information system of Claim of 24, wherein the rate base information relates to a utility rate for utility services provided by regulated utilities.

26. (New) The equipment information system of Claim of 24, wherein the compliance module is operable to communicate with an accounting system to communicate the rate base information between the accounting system and the equipment information system for determining a utility rate base.

27. (New) The equipment information system of Claim of 1, wherein the compliance information is further defined as a testing information related to the equipment.

28. (New) The equipment information system of Claim of 27, wherein the testing information is further defined as environmental testing information related to the equipment.

29. (New) The equipment information system of Claim of 27, wherein the equipment includes transformers and wherein the testing information is further defined as environmental tests of transformers.

30. (New) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising a work module operable to plan a construction related to an electrical distribution system and further operable to identify the equipment needed for the construction, the work module coupled to the inquiry module to query the

equipment database for the equipment for the construction and further coupled to the inventory module to allocate equipment for the construction.

31. (New) The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising a graphical information module to graphically illustrate an electrical distribution system.

32. (New) The equipment information system of Claim 31, wherein the equipment includes transformers and wherein the electrical distribution system illustrated by the graphical information module is further defined as a portion of an electric grid of an electric utility.

33. (New) The equipment information system of Claim 31, wherein the graphical information module graphically represents an electrical characteristic and a physical characteristic of the electrical distribution system.

34. (New) The equipment information system of Claim 31, wherein the graphical information module is further operable to track and monitor an electrical loading and a performance of the electrical distribution system.